

REMARKS

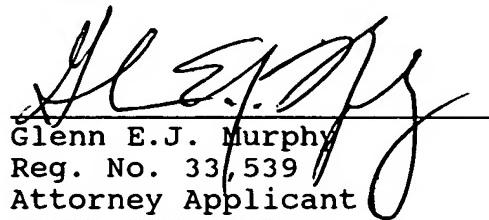
Applicants cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice and enter claims 13-32. The subject matter of the new claims is described in the original claims. The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to related applications and headings appropriate to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

The new claims better claim the full literal and equivalent scope and breadth of subject matter disclosed in the application, notwithstanding applicants' belief that the original claims, drafted for examination in the German and European Patent Offices, would have been allowable but for minor matters of form permitted in German or European practice but objected to in the U.S.P.T.O. The new claims find support in the application independent of the original claims and therefore are not believed to constitute narrowing amendments to the original claims within the holding of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., No. 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).

Preliminary Amendment of US National Stage for International  
Application PCT/EP00/03535 filed April 19, 2000

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and examination of the application. If any fees are due to enter this paper that have not been accounted for, please charge Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,



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